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Reaganaut Lineup

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — With the perception spreading among pollsters and pundits that the Carter campaign is slowly sinking; with the President publicly dangling spare parts to Iran in return for the Ayatollah's vote (a last-minute hostage release that would not necessarily fool the American public); and with the prospect of a tough Senate report late this week on Billygate, thoughts in the nation's capital have begun to turn to what kind of people a Reagan administration would bring to town.

Unburdened by any recent talks with the possible next President, here are my predictions of the names that would be making news in a Reagan administration:

Secretary of State: Democratic Senator Henry Jackson. A sensible hardliner, who scorns the bluster of what he calls "horn-again hawks" and who understands energy politics, Jackson would be a reassurance to the country, a welcome choice to the Congress, and a warning to the Soviets. Another name bruited about is George Shultz, highly respected in Europe; a dark horse is Laurence Silberman, former ambassador and Deputy Attorney General.

Treasury Secretary: Texan Charls Walker, former Deputy Treasury Secretary, has a good shot at this, with competition from Alan Greenspan, former chief of the Council of Economic Advisers. Congressman Jack Kemp, of Kemp-Roth fame, is the dark horse.

Secretary of Defense: William Casey, who ran the S.E.C. and the Ex-Im Bank and is now campaign chairman, is profoundly knowledgeable about defense matters. Another possibility is William Simon, on his way to becoming Chairman of the Fed, as well as former budget chief James Lynn. If Senator Jackson declined State, Senator Sam Nunn might be offered Defense. Do not overlook Jeane Kirkpatrick, strategist and Democrat high in Reagan's regard, who could wind up in a post never before considered for a woman.

Attorney General: Casper Weinberger, longtime Reaganaut who served as head of H.E.W. and O.M.B., is talked about for this post, if he does not wind up at Treasury or as White House staff chief. Another lawyer who could be chief of the White House staff is Ed Meese. The dark horse for A.G. is California judge William Clark, who might also be an early Supreme Court choice.

Secretary of Health and Human Services: Robert Carleson, who headed California's welfare program, has the inside track, though I hear some boosting for Republican Chairman Bill Brock. The Reagan people are mightily impressed with Vernon Jordan, head of the Urban League, who might well be offered this or H.U.D.

Secretary of Commerce seems made-to-order for Ann Armstrong; another possibility is the team of William Agee and Mary Cunningham of Bendix, in which case the No. 2 job would have to be renamed "Deputy Secretary."

Secretary of Labor will be an unfamiliar name. I'll bet on Thomas Sowell, U.C.L.A. economist, a black. **Interior** will be any Westerner Paul Laxalt chooses; **Agriculture** will go to a popular governor like Robert Ray of Iowa. **Housing and Urban Development** may see the first Hispanic in the Cabinet, or a moderate governor like William Milliken of Michigan. **Energy** could go to Congressman David Stockman, who will intelligently close it down, and **Transportation** to Delaware Congressman Tom Evans.

The Office of Management and Budget, which should be more important than most Cabinet offices in a Reagan administration, might be offered to Washington-wise Don Rumsfeld, or to long-time Reagan economic aide Martin Anderson, unless either wants the domestic council job.

The Council of Economic Advisers will be a hotly contested choice: Arthur Laffer has the edge, unless Jack Kemp gets the Treasury slot, in which case Martin Feldstein has the edge. Tom Sowell or Martin Anderson might wind up as compromise.

At the National Security Council Richard Allen, who insisted to George Ball on "Issues and Answers" today that Israel is indeed a "strategic asset," is likely to succeed at lowering the profile of the Adviser's job. Names like William Van Cleave, Pedro San Juan, Richard Pipes, Robert Pfaltzgraff, Fred Ikle, Robert Neumann, Robert Ellsworth, John Lehman, Ed-

ward Luttwak and Scott Thompson will be heard in the high reaches of State, Defense and Arms Control. The C.I.A. would be for Bill Casey or Larry Silberman if they are not in the Cabinet. Eugene Rostow would take the place once occupied by Averill Harriman as roving ambassador, and Jack Javits would be impressive as Ambassador to the U.N.

The White House staff would be run by the aforementioned Shultz, Weinberger or Meese, with Lyn Nofziger imitating Jim Hagerty as lovably irascible Press Secretary and with smooth Bob Gray in the Herb Klein slot. William French Smith, Reagan's personal lawyer, would be the new Kirbo.

Many of these Reaganauts are fun-
gible, and may wind up in slots other
than those I have imperiously as-
signed. But as a group they are experi-
enced, respectable, occasionally bril-
liant and often innovative — and they
would hit the ground running.